



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10th District

For Immediate Release March 9, 2012
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SUPERVISOR BIDDLE IS NOT IMMUNE TO INNER CITY CRIME

Milwaukee, WI –Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., released the following statement Friday morning:

“This morning, for the second time since becoming a Milwaukee County Supervisor, I woke up to a sad situation that, unfortunately, has become an everyday occurrence for many people who reside in the inner city. My home was broken into. Thankfully, my family and I were not harmed as a result of this break-in.

“This situation points to what I have attempted to draw attention to ever since I first decided to run for office. In this city, our leaders have failed and continue to fail the poor and working class people that we claim to serve. We have left nothing but impoverished boarded up neighborhoods, failing school systems, and a lack of economic base and job opportunities. As a result, we have poor people stealing from other poor people. Residents are terrified to live in their own neighborhoods.

“As a County Supervisor, I have heard many complaints from neighbors, constituents, and County workers about the horrific crimes occurring in my district and other communities. Mass incarceration is not the answer; more policing won’t reduce poverty. What we are doing isn’t working. Poverty can, however, be eradicated through increased economic opportunities.

“These are the things that need to happen NOW. County Executive Chris Abele needs to make implementation of the “Ready to Work” Initiative a priority. Mayor Tom Barrett needs to make the “Milwaukee Jobs Act” a priority NOW. Seriously, how bad do things have to get? Are we waiting to become even poorer than the 4th poorest city in the nation? Are we waiting for black male unemployment to exceed the staggering 55% it has already reached? Are we waiting to be dead last when it comes to our public education system and infant mortality rate?

“No more task forces. No more watered-down and timid proposals. No more lip service. Let's build healthy communities now to enhance the quality of life for every man, woman, boy and girl in Milwaukee County. I'm sick of violence, poverty and things staying the same. I'm certain that there are many communities that feel the same.

“I ask County Executive Abele needs to continue the implementation of the Ready to Work Initiative. He needs to move swiftly and with a sense of urgency.

“Mayor Barrett and the Common Council need to pass the Milwaukee Jobs Act. We must ensure more local residents who are underemployed and unemployed are working on our Public Works contracts, infrastructure and development opportunities in Milwaukee County. The City and County must do better.

“Treat these initiatives and the poverty epidemic the same way we treated Kohl's. We threw \$100 million at them. Let's do the same thing for other ideas that provide opportunities to people that need it the help most.

“We will not give up. We will keep fighting the fight. And I am not moving. I am not going anywhere.”

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